



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMMARY

JULY 20, 2020

**ATTENDANCE:** Danny Adkins, Casey Allen, Deana Ashby, Doug Bennett, Robin Cochran, Thom Cochran, Kay Dixon, Cornelius Faulkner, Sanford Holbrook, Mark Kopp, Mike Lafavers, Kyle Lively, Danny Osborne, Marty Pollio, Wayne Roberts, David Rust, Greg Schultz, Tres Settle, Jay Simmons, Robb Smith, Kelly Sprinkles, Henry Webb

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Scott Hawkins, Matt Robbins

### **SUMMARY:**

**Agenda Item:** Participation Guidelines

**Presenter:**

David Cook, director, Division of Innovation, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**Summary of discussion:**

Superintendents were given an overview of the KDE's COVID-19 Consideration for Reopening Schools: Daily Participation and Non-Traditional Instruction. For the 2020-2021 school year, funding will not be based on districts reporting attendance to KDE. In its place, daily participation will be recorded for all students every day. Whether learning remotely or in a classroom, daily participation will be measured by interactions between students and teachers. Attendance will still be recorded during the 2020-21 school year for students who are attending school in-person; however, attendance will not be reported for funding purposes. Grades will be determined by quality of work. Any situation where students aren't learning in the school building is considered non-traditional instruction (NTI) and this language has been added to the state regulation: 701 KAR 7:125. NTI can still be used for snow days, but can also be assigned/planned by the district. All students must be learning remotely for an NTI day to be used.

**Agenda items:** Considerations for Reopening Schools: Exceptional Learners and Preschool Students and Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services

**Presenters:**

Gretta Hylton, KDE associate commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Chris Thacker, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Carol Ann Morrison, policy advisor, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Veronica Sullivan, director, Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of discussion:**

Superintendents were given an overview of KDE's COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Exceptional Learners and Preschool Students guidance. This guidance focuses on keeping those students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs), 504 plans, preschool students and gifted and talented students safe during the 2020-21 school year. Regardless of the environment (in-person or virtual), students with disabilities must be able to fully participate and receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). The pandemic does not change the needs of students; therefore, IEPs should not change to accommodate the needs of local districts during this unprecedented time.

Districts should continue to meet Maintenance of Effort requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Compensatory Education School Year Services document was also released and shared. It guides the districts on how, and when, to provide compensatory education and extended school year services while dealing with COVID-19.

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky Online and Virtual Schools Network

**Presenter:** Marty Park, KDE chief digital officer, Office of Educational Technology

The KDE is working with education cooperatives and school districts to understand virtual needs. The importance of looking at a virtual network rather than an "academy" was stressed. Because the word "virtual" can mean different things to different people, it is important to ensure that everyone is on the same page and has an understanding of the district's plan. The KDE will support districts with whatever virtual services they feel best fit the needs of their students but the department will not be deciding on one particular service to endorse. Though it hasn't launched, the KDE is working toward a virtual network that will aid districts in their efforts and create a means of collaborating with other districts across the state.